



Administrative Office of the Courts

Joseph E. Lambert
Chief Justice

100 Millcreek Park
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-9230
p 502-573-2350 or 800-928-2350
www.kycourts.net

Melinda L. Wheeler
Director

Contact: Leigh Anne Hiatt, APR, public information officer, 502-573-2350, x 4064
cell 502-545-2839, lhiatt@kycourts.net

For Immediate Release

Judicial Nominating Commission releases names of nominees to fill vacant Circuit Court judgeship in Henry, Oldham and Trimble counties

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 28, 2005 — The Judicial Nominating Commission, led by Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert, met today at the Anderson County Courthouse in Lawrenceburg to choose nominees to replace Circuit Judge William F. Stewart who will retire effective Feb. 18, 2005. The vacant circuit judgeship serves the 53rd Judicial Circuit, which is comprised of Anderson, Shelby and Spencer counties. Three Shelbyville attorneys were named as nominees to fill this vacancy: Charles R. Hickman, Donald T. Prather and Stephen R. Price Sr.

Charles R. Hickman

Hickman maintains a private general practice in Shelbyville with an emphasis in real estate, probate and corporate law. He also serves as Shelby County attorney. Hickman holds a juris doctor from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law and an A.B. degree from Western Kentucky University.

Donald T. Prather

Prather practices in Shelbyville with the firm of Mathis, Riggs & Prather PSC, a general practice with emphasis on business law including collections, bankruptcy, divorce, utility, corporate, real estate, wills and estates. Prather earned both a juris doctor and a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky.

Stephen R. Price Sr.

Price holds a juris doctor and a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville. He practices with Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP in Louisville where he specializes in the area of health care, primarily representing hospitals and other providers in government reimbursements, fraud and abuse, and regulatory matters.

Judicial Nominating Process

When a judicial vacancy occurs, the executive secretary of the Judicial Nominating Commission publishes a notice of vacancy in the judicial circuit or the judicial district affected. Attorneys can recommend someone or nominate themselves. The names of the applicants are not released. Once nominations occur, the individuals interested in the position return a questionnaire to the Office of Chief Justice. Chief Justice Lambert then meets with the Judicial Nominating Commission to choose three nominees. Because the Kentucky Constitution requires that three names be

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submitted to the governor, in some cases the commission submits an attorney's name even though the attorney did not apply. A letter naming the three nominees is sent to Gov. Ernie Fletcher for review. When the governor appoints a replacement, his office makes the announcement.

Circuit Court

Circuit Court is the court of general jurisdiction and hears all criminal matters involving more than \$4,000. It has jurisdiction over capital offenses and felonies, dissolution of marriage, adoption, termination of parent rights, land disputes and contested probate cases. Kentucky judges, justices and circuit court clerks are supported by the Administrative Office of the Courts, which is the administrative arm of the Kentucky Court of Justice. The AOC provides ongoing training and education to the state's judges.

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